

Manchester Press

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Census figures show growth in Edgewood

BY MIKE PUTZ
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Elise Bergan has been through two censuses in her role as Chamber of Commerce and economic development director of Edgewood. She admits at times to being frustrated with census figures and accurate results for the town that sits partly in Delaware County and partly in Clayton County.

According to the latest figures at www.census.gov, Edgewood has 909 residents, an increase of 45 from the 2010 census. But other census figures have reported far fewer residents, with a breakdown of residents by age and gender totaling 574 residents, a figure Bergan knows is wrong.



ELISE BERGAN

With Highway 3 running through Edgewood and serving as the dividing line between Delaware and Clayton Counties, Bergan thinks that could be the answer for the population discrepancies.

"I think they must break it down by county and forgot to add one side. But we have grown, both in housing units and in people, since the last census," she said.

Bergan believes the 2010 census, which had Edgewood at 864 missed residents. As a result, the city had census

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workers go door-to-door in 2020.

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Bergan said accurate census information is vital to communities.

"Inaccurate numbers can have consequences. Road use tax funds that are used to repair city streets are distributed per capita. Population figures are also used when applying for grants. If you show you are losing population, often it assumes your need isn't as great. It also makes a difference when it comes to people looking to move to your community.

If they see a population decline, they may decide it isn't a place they want to live."

Bergan also noted the effect population decline can have on businesses. "That may make a difference as to how they market their business. And of course, if the population is declining, there aren't as many people using a service or buying a product."

Bergan said Edgewood is in good shape.

"We have one of the highest retail sales in the area. And when we break that down per capita, we blow other communities out of the water. Edgewood is open for business. We are open for people. We have housing lots and our school is expanding. We have a lot of good things going on with businesses expanding."



Laura Drummy • Staff Photo

Surviving the blizzard

A lone Cardinal rests in a bush during the blizzard conditions, Dec. 22.

Bringing together the young and old

Turnis adds playground to local nursing home

BY DYLAN KURT
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The impacts of isolation and social distancing on both the young and elderly are severe, to say the least, but thanks to one local Eagle Scout, there is now a new place for the two generations to interact.

When brainstorming projects to satisfy the requirements in order for him to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Carson Turnis decided his goal would be to work with the local nursing home to enhance the opportunity for intergenerational interactions to happen at the Good Neighbor Society.

Given the Good Neighbor Society campus has been undergoing other development and improvements over the last several years, Turnis figured this would serve as the perfect location for a new, large playset.

As a bonus, this newly developed section also includes an outdoor gazebo, attractive flower beds, a small toddler playset and a chicken habitat.

Turnis got to work on his project in December 2021, but due to the frigid temperatures, the effort started indoors.

Working from his family's shop, many nights and



Contributed Photo

In order to provide an opportunity for the older and younger generations to connect, Carson Turnis builds a playset at the Good Neighbor Society for his Eagle Scout project.

weekends were spent piecing together the playset with friends and volunteers.

After assembly was completed, it was then partially disassembled and moved to the permanent site on the Good Neighborhood Home campus in March 2022 after volunteers had prepped the site with secure footings and lots of new mulch. In total, 17 volunteers spent a combined 205.5 hours on the project.

The new playset allows residents an opportunity to get fresh air while enjoying time outside watching the children play with their friends and families.

"When visitors come to the Good Neighbor Soci-

EAGLE ~ turn to page 5A

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